

TRIBUTE TO MONTGOMERY
COUNTY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Montgomery County for its outstanding efforts in the digital Government program. The Montgomery County website recently received two awards and an honorable mention at the Best of the Awards Ceremony held by the Center for Digital Government in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The digital government program has been tremendously successful, and it continues to provide County residents with easier and more convenient ways to take care of County business.

Mr. Speaker, Montgomery County's website provides a valuable service to our community and I would like to thank the website team for their service and dedication to the residents of our community.

HONORING LINO MARCHETTI AS
HE IS NAMED PERSON OF THE
YEAR BY THE ITALIAN AMER-
ICAN FOUNDATION OF LUZERNE
COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Lino Marchetti, of Exeter, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of being named "Person of the Year" by the Italian American Association of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Born in Bologna, Italy, Mr. Marchetti is the son of the late Samuel and Sylvia Parente Marchetti.

Mr. Marchetti served in the United States Army during World War II. He worked for many years at Atlas Chain in West Pittston, Pennsylvania, and is a member of the United Auto Workers, AFL-CIO.

An accomplished musician, Mr. Marchetti serves as president of the American Federation of Musicians, Local 140. He frequently provides musical entertainment for residents of nursing homes and for patients at veterans hospitals.

He is the adjutant of the American Legion, Post 833, and he serves as vice president of the Italian American Association of Luzerne County.

Mr. Marchetti and his wife have been married for 53 years. They are the parents of two daughters and the grandparents of three grandsons.

Throughout his life, Mr. Marchetti has been a good citizen, friend and neighbor whose deeds have touched the lives of many in a very positive manner.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Marchetti on this special occasion that recognizes his service to his fellow man and the community at large.

NATIONAL FORESTS REHABILITA-
TION AND RECOVERY ACT OF
2005

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to authorize the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to carry out five collaboratively created pilot projects dealing with post-disturbance rehabilitation.

For those communities that remain at risk from wildland fire or other disturbances, it is important to consider, in advance, scenarios for rehabilitation should a wildland fire, insect infestation, hurricane, or other disturbance event occur. The National Forests Rehabilitation and Recovery Act does just that—this legislation promotes pro-active planning and collaboration to accelerate the approval of rehabilitation projects following uncharacteristic disturbance events.

The National Forests Rehabilitation and Recovery Act will create five pilot projects for post-disturbance rehabilitation. Federal forest land communities can apply to participate in the pilot program by meeting a number of different criteria, with specific consideration given to communities that have a proven track record of working in a collaborative manner to resolve natural resource issues.

This bill includes independent, third-party monitoring of the forest areas following rehabilitation operations to track the short-term and long-term impacts of logging, replanting, stream restoration, road removal, or other rehabilitation activities. The legislation further creates a National Oversight Committee of scientists to provide scientific and socioeconomic monitoring and evaluation of the pilot program. The National Oversight Committee will submit reports to Congress on the short and long-term results of the pilot project. The results of this report will allow Congress to make the most informed decisions on post-disturbance rehabilitation in the future.

Community collaboration has shown great promise in resolving controversial issues before Federal agencies. While I reserved concerns with the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003, Public Law 108-148, one good that came out of the legislation is that it recognized the promise in collaboration by encouraging the development of community wildfire protection plans. These plans have allowed communities across the country to work in a collaborative manner to resolve natural resource issues concerning wildfire protection.

There is no doubt that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. When Congress passed the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003, Congress clearly recognized the priority of preventing wildfires through active thinning of Federal lands in the wildland-urban interface. It is just common sense that we need to invest more on the front end in the name of fire prevention to avert major spending post-fire.

While I believe that there were inadequacies with the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, I do believe that we are being penny-wise and pound-foolish by cheating our budget for forest thinning. To date, forest thinning has not been funded even close to the level authorized. This

needs to improve for the sake of protecting our communities and public lands.

Mr. Speaker, the National Forests Rehabilitation and Recovery Act represents a balanced and collaborative approach to post-disturbance rehabilitation. I am pleased to introduce my legislation today with my colleagues Mr. NICK RAHALL and Mr. RAUL GRIJALVA. I urge my other colleagues to support this bill so that we can promote a collaborative approach to restoring forest ecosystem health and diversity following unusually intense disturbances.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on September 29, 2005 I was unable to vote during rollcall votes Nos. 502 to 508 as I had to attend a funeral in my district.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on H. Res. 470, H. Res. 388, and H.J. Res. 68. I would have voted "aye" on H. Con. Res. 178.

Also, I would voted "nay" on H.R. 3824, the Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act of 2005 because in reality this bill is a threat to the recovery of endangered species in our Nation. However, I would have voted "aye" on the Miller substitute to H.R. 3824.

JIMMY CARTER—A WARNING
AGAINST AN ARCTIC FOLLY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention and strongly endorse the position taken by former president Jimmy Carter in support of the preservation of America's greatest wildlife preserve. President Carter's position was stated in his opinion editorial article "Arctic Folly", in the Washington Post, September 13, 2005.

President Carter criticizes a policy advanced by the Bush administration and adopted by the Congress in the energy legislation passed earlier this session which favors increased production of domestic oil over the protection and preservation of the environmental treasures contained in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and which do nothing to encourage the preservation of oil.

President Carter states, "Now is a time to speak out for the ecological integrity of this unsurpassed 18-million acres wilderness. If we do not respect those acres, many species will be affected." This "Frozen Desert" as Mr. Carter describes it, is a rich Serengeti-like haven of life; serving as a nursery for Caribou, polar bears, walrus and millions of shore birds and waterfowl. Nevertheless, Mr. Carter warns that "... In a few months Americans could lose this special and amazing place through a backdoor legislative maneuver..."

I strongly support Mr. Carter's commitment to the preservation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and I am glad to know that he is